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Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 6 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair:	Mr. Haniff	(Malaysia)
later:	Mr. Zelioli (Vice-Chair)	(Italy)
later:	Mr. Haniff (Chair)	(Malaysia)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/66/91, 92, 131 and 303; A/C.3/66/L.2-L.5; E/2011/30)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/66/130)

1. **Mr. Shein** (Myanmar) said that his Government had been steadfast in its resolve to combat the abuse and trafficking of narcotic drugs, which hampered the overall development of Myanmar. Measures taken to implement the 15-year national drug control plan included the prevention and eradication of illicit poppy cultivation, which had decreased significantly since 1996, as had opium production. Over $18 billion worth of seized drugs had been burnt between 1997 and 2011. In the first half of 2011, law enforcement action had been taken in 1,615 cases of possession of narcotic drugs.

2. Myanmar had reformed its central committee for drug abuse control that year, in addition to signing memorandums of understanding with six countries in the Greater Mekong subregion and working with them to draft and implement a plan to realize a drug-free ASEAN region by 2015. While his country was doing all that it could with its limited resources to eliminate the danger of narcotic drugs nationally, regionally and internationally, only the full cooperation of all stakeholders — international organizations, international and local non-governmental organizations, students and the people — would guarantee the success of the effort.

3. **Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, owing to her Government's commitment to addressing the long-standing problem of drug control, illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium addiction had declined dramatically in recent years. However, in 2010, opium poppy cultivation had doubled, as the sharp rise in the price of the drug had made it a tempting source of income for poppy farmers, especially in the poorest districts, highlighting the link between opium production, addiction and poverty in her country. Ongoing reduction in cultivation therefore depended on the existence and creation of appropriate and sustainable livelihood opportunities. There had also been an alarming rise in the trafficking and use of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants.

4. To tackle both old and emerging drug problems while also addressing the poverty of former opium growers, her Government had approved a comprehensive national drug-control master plan that addressed drug supply through law enforcement and provided economically viable alternatives to opium production. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had also passed a comprehensive law on drugs that complemented the penal code. Under the Country Programme Framework, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was working to address food security and alternative development for former opium-producing communities, expanding vocational training and occupational therapy for drug users, reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS through drug use, and supporting national laws and initiatives.

5. Lastly, expressing gratitude for the assistance received from many Governments and the international community, she stressed that the continued support of all stakeholders would be needed to ensure that the successes achieved would not be reversed.

6. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran), said that his country, sharing borders with the Golden Crescent countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan, wholeheartedly supported the global effort to combat drug abuse and smuggling. It had curtailed transit routes of illegal narcotics from Afghanistan, which was still the main producer of opiates, at the cost of the lives of thousands of its law enforcement officials and millions of dollars. His Government had mobilized 30,000 troops along the country's borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan, striving to prevent trafficking caravans from entering and had also erected embankments and barriers as control and security measures along its eastern borders.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran had collaborated with its neighbouring countries, as well as Balkan route countries, and regular meetings and exchanges of information with Pakistan and Afghanistan had been held, in collaboration with UNODC. His Government had signed a range of cooperation documents on combating drugs and had actively participated in a number of international conferences on narcotic drugs, including through round tables in the context of the Paris Pact Initiative addressing drug trafficking routes in Afghanistan.

8. Combating drug trafficking should be considered a shared responsibility and should be addressed

collectively through international cooperation as considerable amounts of opiates originating from Afghanistan were destined for European countries. In that regard, since his country was the shortest transit route to the Western market, providing it with financial and technical support was important. Regional and international policies and programmes must be reviewed in order to overcome shortfalls and effectively counter the global narcotics problem.

9. **Ms. Jusu** (Sierra Leone) said that concerted efforts were required to respond to the threat that drug trafficking posed to the security and socio-economic stability of post-conflict countries. In spite of the global economic and financial crisis and the lingering impact of the rebel war, Sierra Leone was making steady progress in its efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption. A recently established joint drug-interdiction force brought together all competent agencies to coordinate the fight against drug trafficking.

10. Her Government had also hosted a ministerial conference, the outcome of which provided for the establishment of similar transnational organized crime units and national assistance programmes in Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries. Moreover, it was working to bring its national legislative framework on terrorism, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and corruption into line with relevant international commitments, in addition to improving its law enforcement and intelligence capacities.

11. Measures taken to combat corruption included the arrest and indictment of high-ranking and other Government officials and campaigns to raise popular awareness of what constituted corruption. Noting that sustained international cooperation and assistance were crucial to ensuring that funds accrued from the drug trade were not utilized to promote criminal activities, she expressed appreciation for UNODC support for projects in that and other areas.

12. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that the international community and donor countries must provide additional support to developing countries to help them confront the threats posed by transnational organized crime in all its forms, addressing the root causes of those problems, of which poverty was the most pressing. There was also a need to agree on a definition of terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation on countering terrorism.

13. The Sudan was making great efforts to combat transnational organized crime, money-laundering, human trafficking and organ trafficking by implementing its relevant commitments under regional and international instruments, such as the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and establishing crime-fighting teams in the police unit of the Ministry of the Interior. The Tripartite Agreement signed with Chad and the Central African Republic provided for joint efforts on border control and crime prevention. Moreover, a bilateral agreement had recently been signed with South Sudan.

14. Measures taken to combat drug abuse and trafficking included the drafting of a study on preventing drug abuse among students, which had covered 12 Sudanese universities and raised awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. Moreover, several relevant national mechanisms had been established, such as an anti-drug police force and a general directorate for combating drugs under the Ministry of the Interior.

15. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that despite the difficulty of guarding his country's long, porous borders, national law enforcement agencies were doing their best to capture drug traffickers and bring them to justice. A party to several drug-related conventions and, as of July 2011, to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Bangladesh exchanged information on drug trafficking with countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and reported drug-related arrests and seizures to the Association's Drug Offences Monitoring Desk.

16. *Mr. Zelioli (Italy), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

17. Illegal arms trading posed a serious threat to his country's law and order situation, as its law enforcement agencies, which it was working to modernize, were small and not well-equipped. Government attempts to recover money siphoned abroad illegally — a major challenge given the involvement of multiple jurisdictions — required the support of all countries, especially the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Bangladesh was also exerting efforts to combat money-laundering and trafficking in persons, efforts that must likewise be bolstered by the work of international agencies, development partners, and other Member States. In closing, he urged the donor community to

increase its unearmarked contribution to UNODC, given the difficulty that agency faced in attending to the needs of numerous Member States with control over only 5 per cent of its resources.

18. **Mr. Shakir** (Maldives) said that, as a small island State in a turbulent period of democratic transition, his country continued to face a number of challenges in institutionalizing the necessary frameworks to ensure that accountability, transparency and the rule of law were established as fundamental doctrines of a contemporary society. His Government was endeavouring to develop its response to drug trafficking and organized crime and to strengthen its existing judicial system. In order to address the previous regime's shortcomings in terms of responsible governance, improve public confidence and accountability, and deter corruption and other criminal activities in the long term, for the first time in the country's history the Government would be making public the financial details of State expenditures on a weekly basis.

19. While his Government was grateful to UNODC for agreeing to support the repatriation of Somali drifters apprehended in Maldivian waters, progress had been slow in that regard. Accordingly, he called on UNODC to expedite the process.

20. The Maldives remained concerned by its ranking on the Tier 2 Watch List of the United States Trafficking in Persons Report 2010. Although it was committed to addressing that issue, his Government was severely constrained by a lack of human and material resources. Nonetheless, it planned to put forward a draft anti-trafficking law to parliament by the end of 2011 and was adopting a number of measures to remedy the situation together with donor partners, including through the training of law enforcement personnel and the judiciary on human trafficking by strengthening border control mechanisms and regional cooperation.

21. Combating drug trafficking continued to be a high priority for his Government. As treating the victims of drug dependence as criminals had proven to be unsustainable, it had undertaken comprehensive efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate addicts into society, while also addressing the social and health dimensions associated with drug abuse. It was also upscaling its battle against illegal drug trafficking and organized crime. The international community needed to give closer attention to the nexus between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime. Lastly, his Government planned to accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the months ahead.

22. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his Government placed high hopes on the support and assistance of UNODC, particularly in building the capacity of legal systems, combating trafficking and corruption, and the prevention and treatment of drug use. Côte d'Ivoire was at a significant crossroads in West Africa, a region that had experienced recent successive crises in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. That had created a precarious environment allowing the movement of mercenaries and the recruitment of militia, which was favourable for drug trafficking, banditry, transnational crime, and even terrorism. Drug trafficking and consumption had been on the rise in his country in recent years; thousands of kilograms of drugs had been seized and more than 5,000 persons had been prosecuted from 2007 to 2010 in the context of anti-drug efforts.

23. His Government had undertaken domestic measures along with increased cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with a view to taking joint action against lack of security in those countries and at their borders. It was also part of a pilot project to strengthen borders and increase law enforcement through the West African Coast Initiative. Côte d'Ivoire was involved in regional and multilateral programmes to combat money-laundering. Moreover, partnerships with UNODC and other organizations had helped support cross-border operations in West Africa to combat organized crime. At the national level, his Government was working to restore and reopen the prisons and courts that had been damaged in its post-electoral crisis. In addition, security at the country's borders would be strengthened through the redeployment of law enforcement personnel throughout the country to help prevent and counter drug trafficking.

24. **Ms. Al-Raisy** (United Arab Emirates) said that her Government, out of its belief in the importance of international cooperation on transnational organized crime, had ratified a number of relevant international conventions and protocols, and adopted national legislation to support their implementation. It attached particular importance to counter-terrorism efforts, and the law on combating terrorism offences, enacted in line with its international commitments, complemented

State efforts to combat money-laundering. Moreover, national committees on money-laundering and counter-terrorism had been established to coordinate the efforts of directorates working in each area.

25. The United Arab Emirates was in the vanguard of regional efforts to combat human trafficking, as evinced by its work to foster bilateral cooperation by signing bilateral agreements with a number of labour-exporting countries. A party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and a member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, her country had made financial contributions to the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and enacted national legislation targeting that inhuman phenomenon. Cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies was also under way. Five years into its campaign to combat human trafficking, statistics indicated that efforts to that end were yielding tangible results.

26. In order to confront the new, transnational criminal phenomena spawned by the revolution in information and communications technology, her Government had passed a comprehensive law on information technology crimes that took into account States' previous experiences in that area. In closing, the United Arab Emirates reiterated its support for international efforts to combat crime and strengthen criminal justice.

27. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) said that his Government was committed to seeking stronger measures and closely cooperating with the international community in combating such emerging crimes as cybercrime, the trafficking of cultural properties and timber and wildlife, and illegal fishing practices. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices remained one of the greatest threats to the marine ecosystem, threatening the food security and economies of many countries. Combating corruption remained a high priority for Indonesia, which had voluntarily participated in review mechanisms and undertaken several measures, including the development of a national plan of action against corruption that included preventive measures, a regulatory framework and asset recovery, for which cooperation among States was paramount.

28. Indonesia was committed to tackling trafficking in persons, but increased international cooperation focusing on prevention, prosecution and protection of victims was also needed. His Government had been actively involved in that regard not only domestically but at the regional level, through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, and was working in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on enhancing cooperation against trafficking in South-East Asia.

29. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, noting that terrorism should not be equated with any religion, race, society or group. The greatest challenge was to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a coordinated, balanced manner. In that regard, synergy between the Global Strategy and national, bilateral and regional efforts should be ensured; the complex root causes of terrorism should be addressed; law enforcement should be carried out in a way that promoted tolerance and moderation in eradicating extremism; and counter-terrorism efforts must be consistent with the rule of law, respect for human rights and democratic principles. His Government supported the UNODC technical assistance programme.

30. Concerning international drug control, enhanced cooperation and a holistic approach involving various stakeholders was needed. National policies should involve partnerships with the health and education sectors in addition to law enforcement entities. Enhanced cooperation and vigilance was required to fight the alarming developments in the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of drugs, including the use of women and children as traffickers. His Government was expanding an initiative to provide alternative employment for former or potential drug couriers. In that respect, international cooperation to promote best practices and lessons learned in alternative development programmes and capacity-building was crucial.

31. *Mr. Haniff (Malaysia) resumed the Chair.*

32. **Mr. Ulibarri** (Costa Rica) said that crime prevention efforts which respected human rights and the rule of law had been one of the most important components of his Government's national security strategy. While Costa Rica was a safe country with a

strong institutional infrastructure, it was located between major drug production centres and the world's largest drug use market, which put it at risk of being overrun by drug traffickers. Indeed, Central America's efforts to counter drug trafficking, a scourge that had originated outside developing countries such as Costa Rica, forced it to assume exponential human and material costs. The cost of drug-related violence and crime to the countries of the region was exorbitant and absorbed limited resources to the detriment of other sectors, such as health and education.

33. The international community, particularly the major consumer States and arms producers, must therefore fully and without further delay shoulder their responsibilities in that regard. Strategies should be reassessed. A comprehensive approach to preventing violence and combating crime was needed and should aim to strengthen institutions and the rule of law. The United Nations must play a more active role in coordinating such efforts and in drawing up proposals, as its leadership in that regard had been limited to date, owing in part to insufficient resources, inadequate strategies and dispersed efforts. Lastly, his Government supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should form an integrated governing body, and also called for a robust, comprehensive arms trade treaty capable of effectively controlling the flow of arms, which took lives and spurred conflict around the world.

34. **Ms. Klein Solomon** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that her organization had helped fight trafficking in persons by providing technical cooperation activities to build the capacity of governmental institutions, including by providing training to over 600,000 migration officials and technical support to develop counter-trafficking policies. It had also assisted over 15,000 victims of trafficking in the past 15 years, providing safe accommodation, medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and return and reintegration activities. IOM continued to participate in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking, which could be made into a more active and useful structure to monitor implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

35. While restrictive migration policies were a natural response to terrorism, they had not proven to be effective and made migrants even more vulnerable and susceptible to being exploited by criminal groups. IOM worked closely with Governments on enhancing border management with a view to facilitating legal migration while keeping irregular migration in check, including through initiatives to facilitate cross-border travel and helping Governments to adopt integration policies that could help build more stable and cohesive societies as terrorism could grow out of failed or non-existent integration policies. That was especially true in the light of anti-terrorism legislation that included controversial provisions for the detention and deportation of migrants in some countries. Lastly, it was important to continue to build partnerships across political borders and economic sectors in a way that benefited everyone.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.